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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Ng, et al.

Docket No.: TI-33486

Serial No.: 10/066,246

Examiner: Patel, I.B.

Filed: 01/31/02

Art Unit: 2827

For: Improved PCB Solder Pad Geometry Including Patterns Improving Solder Coverage

Election with Traverse

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MAILING CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(A)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed
to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

April 21, 2003

Elizabeth Austin
Elizabeth Austin

Dear Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are offered in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 03/21/2003. They are respectfully submitted as a full and complete response to that Action.

The Examiner has required restriction to Group I Claims 1-16 and to Group II Claims 17-18, and has further restricted prosecution in this application to one of the species of Group I:

Species I	Figures 3-4.
Species II	Figure 5.
Species III	Figure 6.
Species IV	Figure 7.

Provisional Election

Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I Claims 1-7, 9, and 12-16 directed to Species I.

Traversal of Restriction Requirement

35 U.S.C. Sec. 1.141(a) states that "[t]wo or more independent and distinct inventions may not be claimed in one national application, except that more than one species of an invention, not to exceed a reasonable number, may be specifically claimed in different claims in one national application, provided the application also includes an allowable claim generic to all the claimed species and all the claims to species in excess of one are written in dependent form (§ 1.75) or otherwise include all the limitations of the generic claim." The requirement of further restriction regarding Group I Claims 1-16 is based on the Examiner's assertion that no generic claim currently exists. Applicant traverses the requirement. Claim 1 is of course generic to the inventions claimed in dependent claims 2-11. In addition, Claim 1 is generic to the inventions claimed in Claim 12, so it follows that it is generic to dependent Claims 13-16 as well. Specifically, Claim 1 includes the features of "a first layer of non-conductive material; and a bond pad comprising a patterned conductive second material disposed upon said first layer said patterned bond pad defining a channel therein facilitating outgassing of bubbles via the channel." Compare Claim 12, which includes all of these features of Claim 1, along with additional features. Thus, Claim 1 is generic to Claim 12.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is generic to Claims 2-16. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement and maintain pendency in the application of all of Claims 1-16.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael K. Skrehot', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael K. Skrehot
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